104-10272-10028 2018 RELEASE UNDER THE PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION RECORDS ACT OF 1992

~~TOP SECRET SENSITIVE~~

26 February 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 26 February 1976

The Director was on the Hill; General Walters chaired the meeting.

Berend advised that the National Enquirer plans to pursue COS Cord Meyer for any elaboration or comment he may have on the Enquirer story concerning President Kennedy's alleged relationship with Mary Meyer. DDO will alert Meyer to this.

13-00000

2 March 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 2 March 1976

13-00000

Bolten reported difficulties encountered yesterday when SSC Counsel Fritz Schwartz objected to an OGC staffer reading a portion of the SSC's final report. He asked to be advised of any further problems in this regard.

In response to a note received from the DCI yesterday, Bolten assured that the Agency would not make any substantive comments on the SSC's final report. The Director said we must be careful not to leave the impression that the Agency is endorsing the report.

13-00000

~~TOP SECRET~~ ~~S RET~~ ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ UNCLASSIFIED

CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

NEWS ANALYSIS SERVICE

Date. 1 Mar
Item No. 20
Ref. No.

DISTRIBUTION I

[illegible]

U W BYLZVTRYR

+CASTRO-KENNEDY A112 LEAD 280
+PRECEDE LAS VEGAS, NEV.
+-PMS IN-
+BY DAVID C. MARTIN
+ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) - A SPOKESMAN FOR THE SENATE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE TODAY REFUSED TO CONFIRM OF DENY A REPORT THAT CUBAN PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO INSTIGATED THE ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY IN RETALIATION FOR FIVE ATTEMPTS ON CASTRO'S LIFE.

IN A COPYRIGHTED STORY BY PUBLISHER HANK GREENSPUN, THE LAS VEGAS SUN SAID TODAY THAT CASTRO INSTIGATED THE PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSINATION AND ''VERY PROBABLY'' THAT OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY BECAUSE CASTRO BELIEVED PRESIDENT KENNEDY ORDERED THE ATTEMPTS AGAINST HIM.

THE SUN SAID INFORMATION FOR THE STORY CAME FROM A CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE AND WAS DOCUMENTED BY A SECRET REPORT IN THE HANDS OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE, HEADED BY SEN. FRANK CHURCH, D-IDAHO.

''WE HAVE A NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS,'' THE COMMITTEE SPOKESMAN SAID. ''WE'RE NOT PREPARED TO SAY AT THIS POINT THAT THE CHARGES ARE CORRECT. WE WILL HAVE MORE TO SAY ON THE SUBJECT WHEN OUR FINAL REPORT IS ISSUED.''

AT THE SAME TIME, THE SPOKESMAN REFERRED A REPORTER TO A DISPATCH BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FROM HAVANA IN SEPTEMBER 1963 WHICH QUOTED CASTRO AS SAYING AT A BRAZILIAN EMBASSY RECEPTION THAT ''U.S. LEADERS WOULD BE IN DANGER IF THEY HELPED IN ANY ATTEMPT TO DO AWAY WITH LEADERS.''

THE DISPATCH APPEARED IN THE NEW ORLEANS TIMES-PICAYUNE WHEN LEE HARVEY OSWALD, IDENTIFIED BY THE WARREN COMMISSION AS PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S ASSASSIN, WAS LIVING THERE. IT WENT ON TO QUOTE CASTRO AS SAYING: ''U.S. LEADERS SHOULD THINK THAT, IF THEY ARE AIDING TERRORIST PLANS TO ELIMINATE CUBAN LEADERS, THEY THEMSELVES WILL NOT BE SAFE.''

PRESIDENT KENNEDY, WHO TOOK OFFICE ON JAN. 20, 1961, WAS SLAIN IN DALLAS, TEX., ON NOV. 22, 1963. SEN. KENNEDY, HIS BROTHER, WAS SHOT JUNE 5, 1968, AS HE CAMPAIGNED FOR THE PRESIDENCY IN LOS ANGELES. HE DIED THE FOLLOWING DAY.

13-00000

30 April 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 30 April 1976

Thuermer noted that Time magazine editors have offered the Director an opportunity to comment on the SSC report. The Director asked Thuermer to decline this offer. Thuermer also advised that Strobe Talbott has withdrawn his request to see the Director.

Bolten reported that he will meet with a member of the House Ethics Committee team investigating the leak of the HSC report and that the investigator may also wish to talk with CIA officers who had access to the report.

Bolten suggested that we maintain a good record of foreign and public reactions to the SSC report for possible use with our oversight committees to illustrate damage resulting from publicity of the report. Bolten stated his belief that the Agency has been hurt most by allegations of CIA involvement in Watergate and President Kennedy's assassination. In this connection, he said a study on the Warren Commission will be published by the SSC next month; the theme they are developing is that, because of CIA plots against Castro, the latter retaliated and was connected with President Kennedy's assassination. Bolten suggested it might be worthwhile to talk with Senators Schweicker and Gary Hart, the principals behind the study, as this could prove more damaging domestically than the SSC report. In response to the Director's query, Bolten said that the SSC thoroughly investigated allegations of CIA involvement in the JFK assassination but could find no indications of such involvement. Chamberlain added that, although investigations could not prove that Castro knew about CIA plots against him and took retaliatory action against JFK, they did not disprove this either.

13-00000

3 May 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 3 May 1976

Calling attention to yesterday's Washington Post article on AMLASH, Bolten said this is the first time Cubela's name and the full extent of his activities have appeared in print. He said this stems from the SSC's report on assassinations, which gave the journalist, George Crile, enough information to permit him to piece the story together.

7 May 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 7 May 1976

The Director and General Walters were out of the city. Proctor chaired the meeting.

13-00000

Bolten briefed on a three-hour session he, John Waller and Ted Shackley had yesterday with SSC members concerning the Committee's investigation of the Warren Commission and President Kennedy's assassination.

13-00000

11 May 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 11 May 1976

The Director noted continuing inquiries with regard to our alleged involvement in the Kennedy assassination. Chamberlain noted that this matter had been thoroughly reviewed by his office, and the only thing we were remiss on was perhaps Dulles' not advising the Commission of plots against Castro, which some theoreticians now feel could have precipitated Oswald's action.

13-00000

12 May 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 12 May 1976

Bolten advised that the SSC will meet tomorrow to decide a course of action on their investigation of the Warren Commission and President Kennedy's assassination; i.e., whether to issue a report and, if so, what kind. He repeated his opinion that issuance of this report could be more damaging to the Agency than most other previous revelations (see Morning Meeting Minutes of 30 April and 7 and 11 May).

13-00000

~~[redacted]~~

13 May 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 13 May 1976

The Director was at the White House; General Walters chaired the meeting.

Bolten advised that the SSC is meeting today and will probably call for a special committee to investigate the "new leads" they have discovered during their investigation of the Warren Commission report.

13-00000

14 May 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 14 May 1976

13-00000

Bolten called attention to today's Washington Post article (attached) concerning the SSC recommendation that the new oversight committee reopen the investigation of President Kennedy's assassination. The Director noted that he intends to call Senator Schweicker to obtain clarification of his criticism of CIA and FBI responses to the Warren Commission investigation of the assassination.

14 MAY 1976

WASHINGTON POST

Motives Sought in JFK Death

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

The Senate intelligence committee voted yesterday to recommend a congressional investigation of the motives behind the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

The committee took the action at a closed meeting called to discuss the results of its special inquiry into the shortcomings of the FBI, the Central Intelligence Agency and other government agencies that helped investigate the murder.

As chairman of a two-member subcommittee that took up the controversial issue, Sen. Gary W. Hart (D-Colo.) told reporters that he had seen no evidence to invalidate the Warren Commission's finding that Lee Harvey Oswald was Kennedy's lone assassin.

But he added that "the remaining question, which the Warren Commission did not answer, was 'why?'"

"It's in that area," Hart said, "that I think the lingering doubts remain."

The other subcommittee member, Sen. Richard S. Schweiker (R-Pa.) predicted that the committee would release a fairly detailed and, he hinted, troubling report later this month on failures of the original investigation of the President's death and nagging issues that need to be pursued.

Schweiker indicated that he was not persuaded that Oswald acted alone or even that Oswald fired any of the bullets that day in Dallas. "I have always questioned the Warren Commission finding about who did it and how it was done," he told reporters. "My six months on this sub-committee [illegible] and [illegible]."

The committee, which is about to go out of business, recommended that the new inquiry be undertaken by the permanent Senate intelligence oversight committee the Senate is considering establishing.

Meanwhile, documents just made public by the CIA in response to a freedom-of-information lawsuit showed that CIA officials were talking of assassinating Cuban Premier Fidel Castro and his closest advisers in early March of 1960, apparently just a few days before secret planning for a Cuban invasion was approved by the Eisenhower administration.

Some critics of the Warren Commission's work have suggested that Kennedy's 1963 murder may have been in retaliation for the CIA's reported sponsorship of plots to kill Castro.

Others have contended that the assassination could be traced to anti-Castro Cuban exiles bitter at Kennedy for the failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion and for his secret gestures toward rapprochement with the Cuban premier just before he was killed.

In a 1975 memo drafted for the Rockefeller commission, a presidentially appointed panel that looked into CIA abuses, and made public last month, CIA counterintelligence officials said they still felt, as they did in 1964, that the Warren Commission report should have given more credence to the possibility of a foreign conspiracy in light of promising leads that were not pursued.

The Senate intelligence committee's investigation of CIA-sponsored assassination plots showed that the scheming against Castro continued after Kennedy's death.

Even on Nov. 22, 1963, the day Kennedy was shot in Dallas, a high-ranking CIA official was meeting in Paris with a secret agent who was a Castro intimate to offer him a pen rigged with a poison hypodermic needle for use on the Cuban premier.

The heavily censored CIA assassination documents made public yesterday focused not only on Castro, but also on other foreign leaders killed in coups or attempted coups with various degrees of U.S. backing.

The documents were released by Robert Borosage of the non-profit Center for National Security Studies as part of a freedom-of-information project jointly sponsored with the American Civil Liberties Union.

The records were all made available last year to the Rockefeller Commission and then to the Senate committee, presumably with fewer deletions.

One six-page document, dated May 13, 1961, titled "CIA Covert Activities, Dominican Republic," had everything excised from it except part of one paragraph. It pointed out that the CIA had supplied "internal opposition leaders" with three .38 cal. revolvers, three carbines and accompanying ammunition as "personal defense weapons attendant to their projected efforts to neutralize Trujillo."

According to authoritative sources, the CIA told the White House in that same May 13, 1961, report that it also had some submachine guns and grenades in Ciudad Trujillo which could be provided to the anti-Trujillo group if the go-ahead were given.

The spy agency, however, deleted this from the document it gave Borosage.

ACLU national staff counsel John H. F. Shattuck said yesterday that he would continue pressing in court for more details.

He said he would "suspend judgment" as to whether the Rockefeller Commission got still more documents that have yet to be acknowledged in any fashion.

According to the records released yesterday, Castro's assassination was mentioned as early as March 9, 1960, during a meeting of the CIA's "Branch 4 Task Force." Presiding was Col. J. C. King, the chief of the Western Hemisphere Division within the CIA's Directorate of Plans.

He told the meeting that then-CIA Director Allen Dulles was "presenting a special policy paper to the National Security Council's 5412 Committee," which supervised covert operations.

The heavily censored memorandum for the record added: "Col. King stated that (deleted) unless Fidel and Raul Castro and Che Guevara could be eliminated in one package—which is highly unlikely—this operation can be a long, drawn-out affair and the present government will only be overthrown by the use of force."

Following the 1961 debacle at the Bay of Pigs, President Kennedy approved an all-out secret war of sabotage and propaganda against the Castro regime under the code name "Operation Mongoose," whose de facto boss was Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.

Reporting on a "Mongoose meeting" on Oct. 4, 1962, shortly before the Cuban missile crisis, then-CIA Director John McCone noted that Robert Kennedy, as chairman, made plain his and the President's "dissatisfaction with lack of action in the sabotage field."

The documents showed that the legacy of assassination involvement continued to pursue the CIA even after last year's investigations were starting to bring them to the surface.

In early April of 1975, a few weeks before the final U.S. evacuation of South Vietnam, for instance, CIA headquarters here was evidently told of a "potential coup" being planned against South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu in hopes that the change would bring continued American support for the beleaguered country.

The CIA reacted with deep alarm, fueled by memories of the 1963 coup that resulted in the death of President Ngo Dinh Diem.

"With Diem president and current allegations against our agency," then-CIA Director William E. Colby cabled Saigon on April 4, 1975, "it would be both institutional and national disaster if there were any remote connection between us and such an event . . . If things get complicated at all, advise and I will recommend strongest effort to facilitate Thieu and family safe passage and haven."

13-00000

17 May 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 17 May 1976

Bolten noted that Senator Schweicker has accused the Agency of lying to the Warren Commission and indicated he has new leads regarding President Kennedy's assassination. He said the SSC may charge us with noncooperation, as they believe we are holding out on documents they have requested but which in fact do not exist or we cannot find.

13-00000

18 May 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 18 May 1976

Bolten reported that during the course of the day he hopes to satisfy Senator Schweiker's request for material related to the Warren Commission.

13-00000

21 May 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 21 May 1976

The Director was at the White House, and General Walters was detained at a meeting. Proctor opened the meeting.

Bolten called attention to George Lardner's article in today's Washington Post (attached) concerning the Warren Commission investigation and stated his belief that the SSC will recommend further investigation by the new Senate oversight committee.

3-00000

FBI Knew Of CIA Plots On Castro

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

Top FBI officials knew of Central Intelligence Agency plotting to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro at the time the bureau was investigating the assassination of President Kennedy, it was learned yesterday.

The late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover never informed the Warren Commission of the scheming against Castro and, according to Sen. Richard S. Schweiker (R-Pa.), may also have concealed the information from the FBI agents assigned to investigate the President's murder.

"The fact that they would withhold information from an investigation of this kind has rather chilling implications," said David W. Belin, who served as an assistant counsel for the Warren Commission. "One of the things we were looking at was whether there was any Castro involvement in the Kennedy assassination."

Some critics of the Warren Commission have suggested that the President was killed in retaliation for the CIA-sponsored plotting against Castro.

Schweiker, a member of the Senate intelligence committee, which last week voted to recommend a new congressional inquiry into the assassination, said Senate investigators have just started to examine belatedly discovered FBI files concerning Castro.

An FBI spokesman refused to comment when asked why the documents were not discovered earlier. The Senate committee requested any such records more than a year ago.

In a May 6 letter to Attorney General Edward H. Levi, which was released yesterday, Schweiker said that "recently received materials reveal that the FBI, in 1964, had knowledge of the CIA's 'AM LASH' plot, and that there even exists an FBI file captioned 'Plans to Assassinate Cuban Leaders.'"

AM LASH was the CIA's code name for a senior Cuban official and Castro intimate named Rolando Cubela, whom the spy agency recruited in 1961 as

See FBI, A8, Col. 1

FBI Knew of

FBI, From A1

an important "asset" inside Cuba. Eventually, in the fall of 1963—early September by one account—AM LASH expressed a desire to plan Castro's "execution."

President Kennedy was killed in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963. That same day, the Senate committee has reported, two CIA officials, including one who held himself out as "the personal representative of Attorney General [Robert F.] Kennedy," met with AM LASH in Paris and offered him a ball-point pen rigged with a poison hypodermic needle for use against Castro.

AM LASH apparently spurned the device as too unsophisticated, but the CIA kept sponsoring his efforts even after the Kennedy assassination.

The spy agency delivered arms to him in Cuba in March and June of 1964, according to the Senate committee's findings, and it was not until June, 1965, that the CIA terminated all contact with AM LASH and his associates for reasons related to security.

When first disclosed in The Washington Post last year, the negotiations with AM LASH seemed to offer a striking illustration of evidence the CIA withheld from the Warren Commission in its inquiry into the President's murder. Now it appears that the FBI, which did the primary investigative work for the commission, suppressed the same evidence.

Senate intelligence committee Chairman Frank Church (D-Idaho) asked the Justice Department, including the FBI, more than a year ago for "prompt delivery" of any documents "which relate to the subject of planned or attempted or actual assassinations carried out either within the United States or abroad by, or on behalf of, the United States government, including the Central Intelligence Agency."

Committee officials said all they received were various memos bearing on the CIA's enlistment of Mafia leaders in an earlier effort to kill Castro.

According to one of these documents, a 1962 memorandum by Hoover, both the FBI director and Attorney General Kennedy were aware at that time that "CIA had hired Robert A. Maheu, a private detective in Washington, D.C., to approach [Mafia boss Sam] Giancana with a proposition of paying $150,000 to hire some gunmen to go into Cuba to kill Castro."

Reportedly, however, Kennedy was told, inaccurately, as it turned out, that the operation had been "terminated."

Senate investigators came across cross-references to the additional FBI assassination files several weeks ago while poring over other records.

Washington Post
Friday, May 21, 1976

— member of the intelligence subcommittee that has been reviewing the shortcomings of the detective work that was done for the Warren Commission, said he wrote his May 6 letter to Levi after several unsuccessful efforts to secure access to the documents from the FBI.

Justice Department spokesman Robert Havel said yesterday afternoon that a letter is being prepared for Levi explaining why the records were not turned over earlier. Havel said he did not know the exact reasons but added:

"I understand it was just an oversight. They were in several boxes."

The Warren Commission was appointed by President Johnson a week after Kennedy's assassination, and completed its work on Sept. 24, 1964, in a hurry-up atmosphere, fostered by the chairman, the late Chief Justice Earl Warren.

Schweiker speculated yesterday in a telephone interview that the FBI agents assigned to the Warren Commission inquiry, and the commission "might have been deprived of the information" about the CIA plotting against Castro.

Belin added that "there certainly was nothing like that ever given to the Warren Commission." He noted that FBI documents were supplied to the commission in a continuing flow, "all transmitted under the signature of J. Edgar Hoover."

Schweiker implied that the recently discovered FBI files about the plots to kill Castro were dated before the Warren Commission concluded its work, but refused to confirm this.

Other sources, however, said the files show that the FBI knew of the CIA's AM LASH plot by the summer of 1964, before the Warren Commission had stopped checking out various leads.

Sen. Robert B. Morgan (D-N.C.), another member of the intelligence committee, has voiced the suspicion that Cubela was actually a double agent for Castro.

In any case, the Warren Commission was unaware of his activities. It concluded that there was "no credible evidence" that anyone but Lee Harvey Oswald was involved in the President's assassination and "no evidence that the Soviet Union or Cuba were involved . . ."

13-00000

26 May 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 26 May 1976

The Director was hosting a Congressional breakfast, and General Walters was in Norfolk. Proctor opened the meeting.

Bolten reported that the SSC will have its final meeting today to receive a 200-page report, with a 30-page annex, on its Subcommittee investigations of the Warren Commission. The report will be circulated to Executive Branch agencies after the SSC has passed on it.

13-00000

11 June 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 11 June 1976

The Director and General Walters were out of the city. Wells chaired the meeting.

Chamberlain noted that yesterday we submitted a rebuttal to the SSC Subcommittee report on cooperation with the Warren Commission and that Scott Breckinridge will discuss the matter this morning with Senators Schweicker and Gary Hart.

13-00000

~~TOP SECRET SENSITIVE~~

14 June 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 14 June 1976

The Director was out of the city. General Walters chaired the meeting.

Calling attention to the CBS interview with Frank Sturgis in which it was alleged Sturgis was a CIA man, Thuermer said the Agency issued a formal statement in 1975 that Sturgis had never been associated with CIA. Thuermer said CBS had previously called him, referring to a New York Daily News story concerning Maria Lorenz (attached), but had not mentioned the Sturgis connection.

13-00000-

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CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

NEWS ANALYSIS SERVICE

Date. 17 Jun
Item No.
Ref. No.

DISTRIBUTION I

CASTRO

NEW YORK (AP) -- A WOMAN WHO CLAIMS SHE WAS RECRUITED BY THE CIA IN 1960 TO ASSASSINATE FIDEL CASTRO SAYS SHE TRIED TO CALL THE CUBAN PREMIER ON THE TELEPHONE TO APOLOGIZE BEFORE THE STORY BROKE.

MARIE LORENZ SAID SUNDAY SHE PLACED THE CALL AFTER DISCLOSING TO THE NEW YORK DAILY NEWS THAT SHE HAD AGREED TO POISON CASTRO, HER LOVER AT THE TIME, AFTER INTENSE COERCION BY THE CIA.

THE PLOT FAILED BECAUSE THE POISON CAPSULES MELTED IN A JAR OF COLD CREAM WHERE SHE HAD HIDDEN THEM, SHE WAS QUOTED BY THE NEWS AS SAYING.

MISS LORENZ SAID IN AN INTERVIEW ON WNBC-TV THAT SHE HAD WANTED TO TELL CASTRO ON THE PHONE, ''I'M VERY SORRY, AND IF YOU COME TO NEW YORK I WOULD STILL LIKE TO SEE YOU.'' IT WAS APPARENT FROM THE INTERVIEW THAT SHE DID NOT REACH HIM.

THE NEWS SAID SHE MET CASTRO IN 1959 AND MOVED INTO HIS SUITE IN THE HAVANA HILTON, OSTENSIBLY AS HIS PERSONAL INTERPRETER. THE NEWS SAID SHE SOON REALIZED SHE WAS A VIRTUAL PRISONER.

THE NEWSPAPER SAID HER ACCOUNT WAS CONFIRMED BY FRANK FIORINI, A CIA AGENT WHO SAID HE FIRST PERSUADED HER TO PHOTOGRAPH CASTRO'S SECRET PAPERS, LATER HELPED HER ESCAPE FROM CUBA AND SUPPLIED HER WITH THE POISON. FIORINI WAS LATER KNOWN AS FRANK STURGIS, ONE OF THE MEN ARRESTED AND CONVICTED IN THE WATERGATE BURGLARY.

06-14-76 09:35EDT

Comment:

These comments represent the initial and tentative reaction of the CIA Operations Center and of the appropriate analytic component in the Agency.

13-00000

21 June 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 21 June 1976

Bolten reported that Senator Church's SSC will issue its final report, on CIA and FBI cooperation with the Warren Commission, on 23 June. Based on circumstantial evidence, the report comes close to charging the FBI and CIA with a cover-up or deliberate failure to provide information to the Warren Commission. It also recommends that the matter be pursued by Chairman Inouye's SSC; Bolten said it is his understanding that Inouye will await public and press reaction to the report before deciding whether to investigate further. The Director asked that background information on this report and on recent allegations by a Chilean intelligence officer (see Morning Meeting Minutes of 10 June 1976) be provided to Falkiewicz for handling of press inquiries. Bolten suggested that, if press queries on the SSC report become intense, Falkiewicz be prepared to say more than "no comment"; e.g., a statement that the judgments of the report are highly speculative and based on circumstantial evidence.

13-00000

24 June 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 24 June 1976

13-00000

Falkiewicz called attention to David Binder's article in today's New York Times (attached) and noted that, in comparison to other stories on the subject, it is a good one. Bolten later commented that Senators Church and Hart disassociated themselves from Senator Schweiker's "cover-up" accusations against CIA and the FBI.

NEW YORK TIMES
pg 1
24 JUN 1976

F.B.I.-C.I.A. LAXITY ON KENNEDY FOUND

Senate Unit Asserts Their Effort Was Inadequate in Assassination Inquiry

By DAVID BINDER
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, June 23—The Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities said in a report today that the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency had failed to fulfill their obligations in investigating the assassination in 1963 of President Kennedy.

While concluding that there was no new evidence "sufficient to justify a conclusion that there was a conspiracy to assassinate President Kennedy," the report called for a follow-up investigation of the murder by the new Senate intelligence committee.

The report is the fifth and last issued by the Select Committee, which was set up to study governmental intelligence activities. Previous reports dealt with plots against lives of foreign leaders, covert operations and the history of the C.I.A.

The 106-page document dealt entirely with the performance of the Federal Government's intelligence agencies, domestic and foreign, with regard to the investigation of the Kennedy murder.

It said that the C.I.A. leadership had ignored the possibility of a connection between its own assassination attempts against Prime Minister Fidel Castro of Cuba and the murder of President Kennedy.

Further, it accused the C.I.A. of having deceived the investigatory commission headed by Chief Justice Earl Warren about its knowledge of facts relating to the assassination.

Specifically, the report said that Allen W. Dulles, Director of Central Intelligence until the spring of 1962, had never told the Warren Commission of his knowledge of previous assassination plots against Prime Minister Castro, which could have provoked Cuban retaliatory actions.

It added that the C.I.A. had also failed to disclose its sponsorship of a Cuban agent, code-named Am/Lash, who had been chosen to organize a coup against Mr. Castro from 1961 to 1965, and if possible to kill him. Nor was Am/Lash, in reality a Cuban physician named Rolando Cubelo, who was close to Mr. Castro, ever asked about the Kennedy assassination, the report said.

Oswald's Role

With regard to the role of Lee Harvey Oswald, who is generally held to have been the lone assassin of President Kennedy, the report says:

"Senior C.I.A. officials should have realized that their agency was not utilizing its full capability to investigate Oswald's pro-Castro and anti-Castro connections. They should have realized that C.I.A. operations against Cuba, particularly operations involving the assassination of Castro, needed to be considered in the investigation. Yet the directed their subordinates to conduct an investigation without telling them of these vital facts."

The report notes that the Warren Commission had been told flatly by the C.I.A. that it had "no evidence of foreign conspiracy."

As for the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the report said that its Director, the late J. Edward Hoover, had been so preoccupied with what he described as a possible "smear" of the bureau in connection with Oswald that he had neglected to call for a broad and unprejudiced inquiry into the murder.

Pressure on Hoover Cited

After noting that Mr. Hoover had been "pressured by higher Government officials" to conclude the F.B.I. investigation swiftly, the report said:

"The F.B.I. conducted its investigation in an atmosphere of concern among senior bureau officials that it would be criticized and its reputation tarnished. Rather than addressing its investigation to all significant circumstances, including all possibilities of conspiracy, the F.B.I. investigation focused narrowly on Lee Harvey Oswald."

As a result of the C.I.A. and F.B.I. deficiencies, the Senate report asserted, the Warren Commission was unable to perform a thorough investigation or to reach definitive conclusions.

The report said it was "still unclear" why both agencies had failed to fulfill their duties, but suggested as motives: "concern with public reputation, problems of coordination between agencies, possible bureaucratic failure and embarrassment, and extreme compartmentation of knowledge of sensitive operations."

Failure to Follow Leads

As a result of the shortcomings, the report went on, two important leads on a possible involvement of persons other than Oswald went unpursued.

The first lead, it said, concerned an unidentified passenger who boarded a Cuban Airlines flight from Mexico City to Cuba at 10:30 P.M. Dec. 1, 1963, nine days after the murder in Dallas. The C.I.A. report at the time noted that the flight had been delayed to pick up the stranger, who did not go through Mexican customs and who rode in the cockpit of the airliner. There was no follow up by the C.I.A., the report said.

The second lead cited in the report involved a Cuban-American who crossed from Texas to Mexico on Nov. 23, 1963, the day after the murder, and went on to Cuba. This person reportedly returned to the United States in March 1964 and was described by an informant as "involved in the assassination." But neither the C.I.A. nor the F.B.I. followed up on this tip, the report said.

Because of the shortcomings and the remaining doubts, the select committee concluded with a recommendation that the permanent Senate intelligence committee headed by Daniel K. Inouye, Democrat of Hawaii, "continue the investigation in an attempt to resolve these questions."

The report was prepared by two members of the select committee, Gary Hart, Democrat of Colorado, and Richard S. Schweiker, Republican of Pennsylvania, and a staff of five.

At a news conference this noon, Mr. Schweiker accused both the C.I.A. and the F.B.I. of "a cover-up" with regard to the Kennedy assassination inquiry. He said that the entire affair remained "a jigsaw," with some of the pieces missing. Mr. Hart and Senator Frank Church the Idaho Democrat who headed the select committee, dissented from the "cover-up" judgment but also urged a new investigation of the unexplored leads.

13-00000

25 June 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 25 June 1976

13-00000

Falkiewicz reported that he telephoned Ron Nesson yesterday to complain about remarks troublesome for the Agency made by Nesson in response to press queries concerning the SSC report on the Warren Commission investigation of President Kennedy's assassination. The Director thanked Falkiewicz for taking such action.

13-00000

28 June 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 28 June 1976

13-00000

Falkiewicz noted Senator Schweiker's 27 June appearance on "Face the Nation" (attached) and his call for reopening the Kennedy assassination investigation.

13-00000

CIA -- JFK COLLECTION

Document Withdrawal Notice

Document No. CBS TEXT Dated 27 JUNE 1976

Title/Description (U) "FACE THE NATION" TRANSCRIPT (FULL TEXT)

has been withdrawn from this file and is located in:

[redacted]

Folder No. HR. 1976

Pages 11

This item has been withdrawn because it contains security classified information or otherwise restricted information.

Comment: PROTECTED UNDER COPYRIGHT LAW. REQUEST DIRECTLY FROM CBS (WTOP-TV)

13-00000

29 June 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 29 June 1976

13-00000

The Director noted that Senator Schweiker had spoken with him yesterday about difficulties he encountered with Scott Breckinridge's presentation on the Kennedy assassination/Warren Commission topic but went on to advise that he had no particular grief against the Agency.

13-00000

7 July 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 7 July 1976

13-00000

The Director asked if we are aware of Chairman Inouye's position on further investigating President Kennedy's assassination, as recommended by the Church Committee report. Bolten advised that, prior to issuance of the Church Committee report, Inouye told the press that he would wait six months and then make a decision. Bolten added that it appears Inouye wishes to see how much pressure builds up to continue the investigation. The Director asked if there are papers pertaining to the Kennedy assassination which are locked up until some later date. Knoche replied that the post-mortem examination of the President involved photographs and other items which have been sealed up at the request of the Kennedy family. The Director asked if the Church Subcommittee that investigated the assassination ever requested anything which the Agency was unwilling to give them. Bolten replied negatively and said that Senator Schweiker has acknowledged that the Agency gave him everything they asked for. Bolten added that there is always a possibility that a document related to a request could turn up because it was filed in a way that it could not be found. Knoche added that, although we believe we cooperated as fully as possible, Bolten is taking another look to make doubly sure that this is correct.

13-00000

12 July 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 12 July 1976

NOT IN F.C.

Knoche noted the allegation by Frank Sturgis that Jack Ruby met in Havana with Castro ten weeks before the assassination of President Kennedy (as reported in the 9 July Washington Star, article attached) and commented that Ruby was apparently in Havana in 1962 and 1963. He added that this topic was covered in the Rockefeller Commission Report, page 252; that Sturgis was not a CIA employee; and that Lapham and Falkiewicz were occupied over the weekend in dealing with various inquiries related to the allegation.

13-00000

3 August 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 3 August 1976

Bolten advised that there was an item on this morning's ABC TV alleging that President Kennedy was assassinated by "Saul," who met in this building with Hugh C. MacDonald. The Director provided a summary of the ABC story to Malanick and he will check to see whether a Hugh C. MacDonald was ever in this building (see attached).

13-00000

3 August 1976

REFERENCES TO CIA ON TELEVISION NEWS

TUESDAY, 2 AUGUST 1976, 0700-0800 HOURS

Hugh C. MacDonald, a career law enforcement official was interviewed by Rona Barrett on ABC's "Good Morning America". MacDonald claims he was a frequent free-lance employee of the CIA and it was at the CIA Headquarters where he first met the man he calls "Saul"... the man he believes killed President John Kennedy. Mr. MacDonald has written a book titled On His Search for Saul.

13-00000

9 August 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 9 August 1976

Providing the Director a memorandum regarding Agency contacts with John Roselli, Malanick stated that we had no formal contract with Roselli but that we did have some contact with him in Florida and reimbursed him for some expenses he incurred.

13-00000

Berend requested the Director's guidance in the event he receives press queries as to whether the Agency and White House have been in touch concerning allegations against CIA which appear in the September issue of Playboy (see attached AP ticker). The Director stated that Berend should reply that, upon hearing the allegation, the Director immediately notified the White House and is in the process of informing our Congressional oversight committees to ensure that they understand there is no validity to the allegations.

13-00000

CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

NEWS SERVICE

Date. 9 Aug
Item No. 3
Ref. No. _____

DISTRIBUTION II

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D A CZCRYRRYR
&PM-CIA-Hughes; 490

CHICAGO (AP) - ALARM OVER POSSIBLE DISCLOSURE OF LINKS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AND THE FINANCIAL EMPIRE OF THE LATE HOWARD HUGHES MAY HAVE BEEN BEHIND THE WATERGATE BREAK-IN; AN ARTICLE IN THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF PLAYBOY MAGAZINE SAYS.

THE ARTICLE ALSO SAID 31 CONGRESSMEN INCLUDING GERALD FORD; A GOVERNOR AND A CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS GOT FUNDS IN 1960 FROM A CIA FRONT ORGANIZATION LINKED TO HUGHES.

LARRY DUBOIS AND LAURENCE GONZALES; WHO WROTE THE COPYRIGHT ARTICLE; QUOTED FORMER HUGHES AIDE JOHN MEIER AS SAYING THAT IN SEPTEMBER 1960 HE WAS GIVEN A LIST OF POLITICIANS THE CIA WANTED HUGHES' SUMMA CORP. TO PROVIDE WITH FUNDS.

THE WRITERS SAID THOSE ON THE LIST - FORD WAS THEN A REPRESENTATIVE FROM MICHIGAN - MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN THE SOURCE OF THE MONEY.

THE ARTICLE; THE FIRST OF A SERIES; SAID HUGHES BEGAN WORKING WITH THE CIA AFTER THE AIR FORCE THREATENED TO CANCEL CONTRACTS WITH HIS HUGHES AIRCRAFT CO. IT ALSO SAID THAT AFTER HUGHES TRANSFERRED THE STOCK OF THAT FIRM TO THE HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE; THE CIA BEGAN USING HUGHES AIRCRAFT AS A COVER.

AS EARLY AS 1960; THE ARTICLE SAID; HUGHES ALLOWED AN AIDE; ROBERT MAHEU; TO PARTICIPATE IN CIA PLANS TO ASSASSINATE CUBAN PREMIER FIDEL CASTRO. MAHEU HAS ACKNOWLEDGED HE WORKED ON SEVERAL ABORTIVE PLOTS AGAINST CASTRO WITH THE LATE MOBSTERS SAM GIANCANA AND JOHNNY ROSELLI. ROSELLI; WHOSE BODY WAS FOUND THIS WEEKEND NEAR MIAMI; TOLD A SENATE COMMITTEE HE AND GIANCANA PARTICIPATED IN THE PLOTS. GIANCANA WAS SLAIN LAST YEAR.

over

THE ARTICLE SAID THE HUGHES MEDICAL INSTITUTE WAS FIRST GRANTED TAX-EXEMPT STATUS SHORTLY AFTER HUGHES' INTERESTS LENT $205,000 TO FORMER PRESIDENT RICHARD M. NIXON'S BROTHER, DONALD, IN 1956. IT SAID THE LOAN LED TO LONG-TERM COOPERATION BETWEEN HUGHES AND NIXON.

THE WRITERS SAID HUGHES' ALLIANCES WITH THE CIA AND NIXON ALLOWED HIM 'TO OVERCOME GOVERNMENTAL OBJECTIONS TO THE EXPANSION OF HIS LAS VEGAS HOTEL-CASINO EMPIRE AND HIS PURCHASE OF AIR WEST AIRLINE.

IN 1968, DUBOIS AND GONZALES SAID, HUGHES WAS MOST CONCERNED WITH BANNING UNDERGROUND NUCLEAR BOMB TESTS IN NEVADA, SO HE SENT MAHEU AND MEIER TO PLACE THE FINANCIAL MIGHT OF THE HUGHES EMPIRE BEHIND NIXON AND CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES AMENABLE TO THE BAN.

LATER, WHEN MAHEU WAS TOPPLED FROM HIS POST AS HUGHES' TOP AIDE, THE ARTICLE SAID, NIXON AND THE CIA FEARED MAHEU MAY HAVE GIVEN CIA-RELATED DOCUMENTS TO FORMER DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIRMAN LAWRENCE O'BRIEN, WHOM HE HAD ONCE HIRED FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS WORK.

THE ARTICLE SAID THE REAL REASON FOR THE WATERGATE BREAK-IN MAY HAVE BEEN THE RETRIEVAL OF ANY SUCH DOCUMENTS FROM O'BRIEN'S SAFE.

ON MEIER'S ALLEGED LIST WERE SENS. PAUL J. FANNIN, R-ARIZ.; GORDON L. ALLOTT, R-COLO.; HIRAM L. FONG, R-HAWAII; JAMES O. EASTLAND, D-MISS.; HOWARD D. CANNON, D-NEV.; NORRIS COTTON, R-N.H.; STROM THURMOND, R-S.C.; JOHN G. TOWER, R-TEX.; WALLACE F. BENNETT, R-UTAH, AND HARRY F. BYRD JR., D-VA.

IN ADDITION TO FORD, FORMER OR CURRENT REPRESENTATIVES ON THE ALLEGED LIST WERE: WILBUR MILLS, D-ARK.; CRAIG HOSMER, R-CALIF.; ROBERT L. LEGGETT, D-CALIF.; J. HERBERT BURKE, R-FLA.; LARRY WINN JR., R-KAN.; JOE D. WAGGONER JR, D-LA.; WILLIAM J. RANDALL, D-MO.; JAMES R. GROVER JR., R-N.Y.; WILLIAM H. HARSHA, R-OHIO; FRANK T. BOW, R-OHIO; JAMES H. QUILLEN, R-TENN.; JAMES M. COLLINS, R-TEX; OLIN E. TEAGUE, D-TEX.; OMAR BURLESON, D-TEX.; ABRAHAM KAZEN, D-TEX.; W.C. DANIEL, D-VA.; AND VERNON W. THOMPSON, R-WIS.

THE LIST ALSO INCLUDED FORMER NEVADA GOV. PAUL LAXALT, NOW A SENATOR FROM NEVADA; AND UNSUCCESSFUL OREGON CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE JOHN CAMP.

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10 August 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 10 August 1976

Falkiewicz called attention to an article in the Newport News press alluding to Congressman Thomas Downing's recommendation that the Warren Commission report be re-examined. It was noted that Senator Baker has received a letter from Lee Harvey Oswald's wife, and the Director alluded to our planned response to Congresswoman Abzug on this topic, observing that this whole matter promises to be a continuing problem.

Bolten reported that Senator Hart is upset over a WMAL report that he would not rule out an Agency connection with the murder of John Roselli.

13-00000

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CE.. RAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

August 10, 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: DDCI

FROM: George Bush
Director

SUBJECT: Meeting with Senators Baker and Inouye

ATTENDING: Clarence Kelley, Jim Adams, and One Other, FBI
Messrs. Miller, Madigan and Liebengood, Committee Staff
Senators Baker and Inouye
George Cary
George Bush

Two subjects were covered:

1. The Roselli Matter

Baker asked what we could do about this. I told him I felt nothing. Inouye was disinclined to have a hearing. I said that I would like to see an FBI study if there were, as Inouye had indicated, a lot of suggestions around that CIA might have killed Roselli. I expressed my indignation at the thesis but said the Agency would want to see a full FBI investigation. Kelley indicated that the Attorney General decided the FBI should not investigate this matter. It was agreed that Inouye, Kelley and I would all talk to Attorney General Levi about this.

2. Playboy Story on CIA/Hughes, etc.

Inouye would welcome an investigation by his Committee on this outrageous article. I believe Inouye will commission a staff study in which we would cooperate fully.

AMERICAN REVOLUTION BICENTENNIAL 1776-1976

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Frankly, these continuing allegations about CIA burn me up and I told the group that sometimes I felt a little paranoid about all of this, though there was no evidence that there was an orchestrated campaign to tear down the Agency. I cited stories based on information required through, "freedom of information," as continuing to plague us, resurrecting warmed-over data and then having it run as if it were brand new. I guess we will just have to contend with this for a while longer.

George Bush

13-00000

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A-5

WASHINGTON STAR (GREEN ...NE)
10 AUGUST 1976

The Nation

Baker Asks Data on Roselli Death

Sen. Howard Baker, R-Tenn., says he will ask the FBI and the CIA to provide any information it has on the murder of John Roselli, an underworld strongarm man and gambler who testified he made several CIA-sanctioned attempts to assassinate Fidel Castro.

Baker, a member of the new Senate Intelligence Committee, said yesterday that he would talk with the committee's chairman, Sen. Daniel Inouye, about whether the panel should investigate links between the slaying of Roselli that of Sam Giancana, who was slain in his Chicago home in June 1975. "Both agreed to testify on the same subject," Baker said. "Both were involved in the same assassination operation."

Justice Silent on Mercenary Probe

The State Department has turned information on recruitment of U.S. mercenaries to fight in Africa over to the Justice Department for possible prosecution, Asst. Secretary of State William Schaufele Jr. told the House International Relations investigations subcommittee.

But Deputy Asst. Atty. Gen. Robert L. Keuch refused yesterday to give details on an FBI investigation into allegations of recruitment of 25 to 30 Americans. Chairman Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., said Justice has been investigating for a year without results.

Schaufele said that "we attempted to discourage Americans from going to Angola as mercenaries."

13-00000

PLAYBOY
SEPTEMBER 1976

an investigative report

By Larry DuBois and Laurence Gonzales

THE PUPPET . . .

. . . AND THE PUPPETMASTERS

UNCOVERING THE SECRET WORLD OF NIXON, HUGHES AND THE CIA

including

The Buying of the President
The World's Biggest Intelligence Front
The War Within the Hughes Empire
The Untold Story Behind Watergate

Of all the mysteries surrounding the Watergate affair, perhaps the strangest is that in this, the most thoroughly investigated burglary in history, no publicly accepted motive for the break-in itself has ever been established. A vague notion that a group of Republican-sponsored burglars decided to get some dirt on the Democrats and did so without knocking is still widely believed. Lost in the bonanza of books and movies about who did it and how it was done is the central question: Why did it happen?

In the recent past, some accounts—notably, J. Anthony Lukas' massive Watergate study, "Nightmare"—have suggested that both the Howard Hughes organization and the CIA had connections with Watergate. And some important pieces of the puzzle were put in place by a few of the investigators on Sam Ervin's Senate Watergate committee. But the puzzle was never made whole, the pieces never seemed to fit.

A set of unusual circumstances led PLAYBOY to undertake an investigation of Hughes and the CIA and to get a fuller picture of Watergate. Part I of our report will examine the links between Hughes and the CIA and the events leading up to Watergate. Part II, to appear in November, will examine the cover-up that succeeded and will reveal how newsmen were misled in [illegible] about the whole story.

PART I

A SURVIVOR'S NOTEBOOKS

To sort of take the term Watergate and link it to Howard Hughes, I think, is really unfair. —BOB WOODWARD, *April 23, 1976*

IN THE SPRING OF 1975, a man named Virgino González (no relation to Laurence Gonzales) drafted an affidavit that was executed in Mexico City. In the sworn document, he claims to be an ex-CIA agent who was assigned by the agency to monitor the activities of John Meier, a former Hughes executive. "At the end of 1971," Virgino González wrote, "I was ordered to an assignment that included monitoring the activities of John Meier and was shown a file on him. . . . This file showed that Meier came from New York, his early business life and how he joined Hughes and evaluated the underground [nuclear] testing in Nevada. He was giving the AEC a hard time on behalf of Hughes."

Meier, a computer expert and environmentalist who had worked for Hughes off and on since 1959, was sent to Las Vegas by Hughes to evaluate environmental problems. Before Hughes moved to Vegas in November 1966, he wanted Meier to give him a full report on the effects of atomic testing at the Nevada

13-00000

12 August 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 12 August 1976

The Director was en route to Georgia to brief Presidential candidate Carter, and the DDCI was meeting with Senator Hart; Wells chaired the meeting.

13-00000

Bolten called attention to the attached editorial in today's Washington Post, "Who Killed John Roselli?" Cary reported on the differences between Senators Baker and Inouye with regard to a Congressional investigation and Senator Baker's efforts to reverse the Justice position that this matter is not within FBI jurisdiction.

13-00000

WASHINGTON POST

Who Killed John Roselli?

WE'RE GOING TO tell you a little story now. Once there was a President who was murdered. His brother was murdered too. A long time after they died some very strange facts came to light. It turned out that while they were running the government, the government was trying to get two Mafia mobsters to arrange the murder of someone else—the head of a small, hostile neighbor state. It also turned out that one brother—the one who was President—apparently had a girlfriend who was the girlfriend as well of the mobsters. And one of the mobsters, whose nickname was Momo, was prominent on the list of criminals the President's brother was trying to put in jail. The story may sound complicated, but life is complicated, and the complications in this case got even more so. For when a committee of the Congress wanted the two mobsters to come and tell them something about all this, only one of them—the one named Johnny— came. The other one, Momo, was murdered in his house a week before they wanted him to testify. Johnny, however, told his story to one committee in the Congress and then came back—quietly—to tell some more things to another committee which was in fact looking into the murder of the President. Then Johnny went to Florida. Then no one could find him. Then some fishermen found him. Dead. In an oil drum.

But we haven't told you the strangest part of all yet, the part you're really not going to believe. It is that when the great national political community of solons, scribes, policemen, spies and managers of the general wellbeing heard about poor Johnny, they said: "Oh, my goodness." Some of them went farther, of course. They said: "Fancy that!" But most of them didn't say anything at all except: "Yawn."

Forgive us for lapsing into storybookese. We do it for a reason which is that the simple unadorned facts of the John and Robert Kennedy-Fidel Castro-CIA-Mafia-Momo Giancana-Johnny Roselli-Judith Exner-Church Committee-Schweiker Committee saga need to be put forward in stark outline for their magnitude to be understood. Is it really, as the sophisticated wisdom goes, "paranoid" on our part to brood about the suggestive and possibly monstrous interconnections between all these facts and to wonder why they are not the object of intense press and government scrutiny? What accounts for the general indifference in high places? What accounts for the eagerness with which we all seem to accept that familiar tipoff that we shall be hearing no more about the latest crime—i.e., the pronouncement that Mr. Roselli's dispatch to an oil drum and Beyond had "all the earmarks of a gangland slaying." Those are the good old "earmarks" we only hear about when it is next to certain that we shall hear nothing more.

The supposition of course is that the Gang which runs gangland has its reasons and its methods and that, disagreeable as these may be, they really lie outside the proper realm of public concern because they amount to a system of justice which 1) only affects those dumb enough to get involved in it in the first place and 2) tends only to punish those who have committed what the rest of us would regard as heinous crimes anyway. Not that these are things people say—they're things people can be expected to assume. But we think in this case the assumptions have even less validity than they would have on a clear day, which isn't much. And that is because if we know anything, we know that the Mafia operations in which Messers. Giancana and Roselli figured had become intertwined with the operations of the United States government. Never mind that the decisions of the early 1960s which made this so may rank among the most abominable decisions ever taken in the U.S. government. The plain fact is that, given the provocative and suggestive history of the two men, it is not possible for either Congress or the Executive Branch to look the other way or to complaisantly accept the earmarks-of-a-gangland-slaying bromide.

After Mr. Giancana was killed, the Church Committee inquired of the FBI whether its proposed meeting with him had figured in his murder. The FBI reported that it had no evidence to this effect. The then-director of the CIA, William Colby, felt obliged to state that the CIA had had nothing to do with the murder—and Mr. Colby likewise pronounced the other day that he was certain the CIA had not done in Mr. Roselli. The mere fact that the questions, to which these were meant to be the answers, had been raised tells us, anyway, that much more in the way of inquiry is wanted. The newly formed Senate Select Committee on Intelligence has now asked the Justice Department to make an investigation of Mr. Roselli's death. We think the Department should comply and that the investigation, despite FBI Director Clarence Kelley's disclaimer of jurisdiction, should have the Attorney General's personal attention. Such attention is needed because of the elaborate and not entirely reassuring history of relationships between the FBI and the CIA and the various participants in the whole sorry saga. We are not suggesting that any agency of government—or even any of those agency's fringe retainers —were the murderers. We are suggesting that there is an overlay of potentially embarrassing information sufficiently pervasive to keep an awful lot of people from wanting to have this thing aired. We also think that the Select Committee should reserve the right to pursue the matter. Congress, after all, can hardly be expected to sit idly by while its witnesses are being done in. Nor do we see how the public in general and the political establishment in particular can turn their attention away until we are all satisfied that a much greater effort has been made by the government—which means both the Executive Branch and the Congress—to discover what elements were at play in this series of appalling crimes and scandals.

WASHINGTON POST

FBI Says It Won't Investigate Murder of Mafioso Roselli

United Press International

FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley said yesterday the FBI has no jurisdiction to investigate the murder of John Roselli, the underworld figure who testified he made several attempts to assassinate Cuban Premier Fidel Castro for the CIA.

"There is no jurisdiction, at least that we know of," Kelley said in a news conference."

Sen. Howard H. Baker Jr. (R-Tenn.) said Monday he would ask Kelley and CIA Director George Bush to investigate the slaying. Baker is a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

Roselli's body was found last Saturday stuffed in a chain-weighted, 55-gallon drum that was floating in a bay near Miami. He had been missing since July 28, when he left his sister's home to play golf. Authorities in Miami, who are investigating, said he died of asphyxiation.

Baker also suggested that the intelligence committee look into a possible connection between Roselli's death and that of Sam Giancana, the Chicago crime figure who was shot to death in his home in June, 1975.

Roselli appeared before the committee shortly after Giancana was murdered and testified he and Giancana had been recruited by the CIA to kill Castro. He said he made several trips to Cuba in the early 1960s and had tried unsuccessfully to kill the Cuban leader with poison, high-powered rifles and explosives.

13-00000

24 August 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 24 August 1976

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Lapham related that Dade County investigators will be in Washington and have asked us to run name traces on four Cubans thought to be connected with John Roselli, as well as for the identity of other Cubans who may have been involved or privy to Castro assassination attempts. The Director commented that it is to our advantage to cooperate in every way with the investigators, and in response to the DDCI's query, Lapham explained that the FBI has opted out of the investigation. Lapham went on to report that SSCI staffer Madigan's session with Michael Merhige did not go particularly well and that he is unimpressed with Merhige, who had some difficulty in interpreting the Lapham letter lifting him from his secrecy agreement (see Morning Meeting Minutes of 10 August).

13-00000

16 September 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 16 September 1976

Waller provided the Director a copy of the 28 November 1963 CIA cable referred to in Jack Anderson's 7 September 1976 article (attached) and noted that efforts are under way to determine what action was taken upon receipt of the cable and whether it was provided to the Warren Commission. In response to the Director's query as to whether the cable was provided to the SSC Subcommittee (chaired by Senator Sweicker) that investigated CIA and FBI cooperation with the Warren Commission, Bolten said that the Subcommittee had access to all Agency material pertaining to the Kennedy assassination, including the file containing the cable. The Director asked that we ascertain whether the cable was given to SSC staffer Madigan or Liebengood and, if so, when. In response to Waller's statement that the cable was among 1200 documents CIA released under FOIA to attorney Melvin Belli, Blake said he would determine the date it was provided.

[redacted]

Miller noted Bill Miller's advice that the SSCI voted unanimously to proceed with their investigation of Roselli's assassination, and stated that OLC might ask that the Director encourage Chairman Inouye to act on our CIARDS amendments.

[redacted]

In response to Bolten's advice that the House Rules Committee voted to establish a new committee to investigate the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Waller stated that a task force headed by the IG is already reviewing all material in the Agency's possession pertaining to the Kennedy assassination.

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CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

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JOHN M. WHITTEN
C/WR 3
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FILE IN CS FILE NO.
29 NOVEMBER 1963

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WHITE HOUSE ATTN: MR. MCGEORGE BUNDY
DEPARTMENT OF STATE ATTN: MR. U. ALEXIS JOHNSON
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
~~SECRET~~ CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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FOIA

INFO: DCI, D/DCI, DDP, C/CI 2, VR

☐ DEFERRED
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☐ IMMEDIATE

10 INFO CITE DIR 85657

ON 26 NOVEMBER 1963 A BRITISH JOURNALIST NAMED JOHN WILSON, AND ALSO KNOWN AS JOHN WILSON-HUDSON, GAVE INFORMATION TO THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN LONDON WHICH INDICATED THAT AN "AMERICAN GANGSTER TYPE NAMED RUBY" VISITED CUBA AROUND 1959. WILSON HIMSELF WAS WORKING IN CUBA AT THE TIME AND WAS JAILED BY CASTRO BEFORE HE WAS DEPORTED.

IN PRISON IN CUBA, WILSON SAYS HE MET AN AMERICAN GANGSTER GAMBLER NAMED SANTOS WHO COULD NOT RETURN TO THE U.S.A. BECAUSE THERE WERE SEVERAL INDICTMENTS OUTSTANDING AGAINST HIM. INSTEAD HE PREFERRED TO LIVE IN RELATIVE LUXURY IN A CUBAN PRISON. WHILE SANTOS WAS IN PRISON WILSON SAYS, SANTOS WAS VISITED FREQUENTLY BY AN AMERICAN GANGSTER TYPE NAMED RUBY. HIS STORY IS BEING FOLLOWED UP. WILSON SAYS HE HAD ONCE TESTIFIED ABOUT CASTRO ACTIVITIES BEFORE THE EASTLAND COMMITTEE OF THE U.S. SENATE, SOMETIME IN 1959 OR 1960.

CLASSIFICATION REVIEW
CONDUCTED ON 24 MAY 1976
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END OF MESSAGE

Document Number 206-83
for FOIA Review on APR 1976

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by authority of
RICHARD HELMS
DDP
Rreleasing officer

COORDINATING OFFICERS

~~SECRET~~

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Copy No.

13-00000

Jack Anderson and Les Whitten

Behind John F. Kennedy's Murder

Mafia mobster John Roselli may have taken the secret of the John F. Kennedy assassination with him to his death. He was brutally murdered a few weeks ago, his hacked-up body stuffed into an oil drum and dumped into Miami's Biscayne Bay.

Before he died, Roselli hinted to associates that he knew who had arranged President Kennedy's murder. It was the same conspirators, he suggested, whom he had recruited earlier to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

By Roselli's cryptic account, Castro learned the identity of the underworld contacts in Havana who had been trying to knock him off. He believed, not altogether without basis, that President Kennedy was behind the plot.

The Cuban leader, as the supreme irony, decided to turn the tables and use the same crowd to arrange Kennedy's assassination, according to Roselli's scenario. To save their skins, the plotters lined up Lee Harvey Oswald to pull the trigger.

Roselli could never be pinned down on names or details. It was also difficult to assess whether he knew what he was talking about or whether he merely described what he thought might have happened. Certainly there is no real evidence to support Roselli's story. But there are enough curious circumstances to justify telling it. Here are the fascinating highlights.

The ruggedly handsome Roselli, a flamboyant mobster with underworld contacts in Havana, was recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency in 1960 to assassinate Castro. He had no authority, however, over the underworld elements in Havana.

They were under the loose control of Florida's Mafia chieftan, Santos Trafficante. His gambling enterprises in Havana had been closed down by Castro after the 1959 revolution. In fact, Trafficante had been lodged for a period in a Cuban jail, an indignity that didn't endear Castro to him.

After Trafficante made it back to his Florida haunts, he left part of his organization behind in Havana. Some of his henchmen even managed to develop contacts in Castro's inner circle. These were the people Roselli wanted to use to knock off Castro.

But Roselli didn't have the stature inside the Mafia to make the necessary arrangements with Trafficante. So Roselli called in his patron, the Chicago godfather Sam (Momo) Giancana, to deal with Trafficante.

As Roselli's associates tell it, he persuaded Giancana that it would be to their advantage to win the good will of the CIA. Convinced, Giancana flew down to Florida to make the preliminary arrangements.

Once Giancana and Trafficante set it up, Roselli used the Havana underworld to plot Castro's demise. At first, they tried to plant poison pills, supplied by the CIA, in Castro's food. The pills would have made it appear that he died of natural causes. When this failed, snipers were dispatched to a Havana rooftop. They were caught.

The word reached Roselli that some of the plotters had been tortured and that Castro had learned about the whole operation.

The CIA called off the Roselli operation in March, 1963, but recruited a Castro associate, Rolando Cubela, to murder Castro.

In an impromptu, three-hour interview with Associated Press reporter Daniel Harker, Castro indicated that he knew about the attempts on his life and warned that U.S. leaders also might not be safe. That was Sept. 7, 1963.

According to Roselli, Castro enlisted the same underworld elements whom he had caught plotting against him. They supposedly were Cubans from the old Trafficante organization. Working with Cuban intelligence, they allegedly lined up an ex-Marine sharpshooter, Lee Harvey Oswald, who had been active in the pro-Castro movement.

According to Roselli's version, Oswald may have shot Kennedy or may have acted as a decoy while others ambushed him from closer range. When Oswald was picked up, Roselli suggested, the underworld conspirators feared he would crack and disclose information that might lead to them. This almost certainly would have brought a massive U.S. crackdown on the Mafia.

So Jack Ruby was ordered to eliminate Oswald, making it appear as an act of reprisal against the President's killer. At least this is how Roselli explained the tragedy in Dallas.

Several key CIA officials believed that Castro was behind the Kennedy assassination.

It has also been established that Jack Ruby, indeed, had been in Cuba and had connections in the Havana underworld. One CIA cable, dated Nov. 28, 1963, reported that "an American gangster type named Ruby" had visited Trafficante in his Cuban prison.

13-00000

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PFS
MAS

OLC 76-2564
10 September 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Maurice A. Sovern, O/SA/DO/O

FROM: Donald F. Massey
Assistant Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT: 9 September 1976 Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Requests

1. Yesterday I received several calls involving requests for CIA information. I need your assistance in answering these requests.

2. Mike Madigan, Minority Counsel, called regarding a proposed overseas trip of Senator Garn to CIA stations. The Senator is primarily interested in the counterintelligence field and Madigan would like us to structure an itinerary of approximately ten days around stations where Senator Garn could best learn the counterintelligence field. Before his departure, Senator Garn would want a briefing on counterintelligence, however, I suggest that a visit with George Kalaris would [illegible] recent tragedy in Senator Garn's family [illegible] an automobile accident), the trip is in [illegible] to tentatively plan such a trip for Oct [illegible]

7/12/94
OK's w/o redaction
by DO (Ellie/Tom)
Standing alone - OK
w/itinerary - problem

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/11/29 CIA-RDP96-00792R000100010001-9

3. Madigan is also looking into t[illegible] Jack Anderson column (copy attached). [illegible] 28 November 1963 cable referred to in t[illegible]

4. Rick Inderfurth stated that th[illegible] pursue the John Roselli matter. In con[illegible] they would like to examine by early nex[illegible] John Roselli, Salvador Giancana, and Sa[illegible] Committee has already been provided a 9[illegible] from Howard Osborne, D/OS, to the DCI r[illegible] mentions two Cubans involved with Rosel[illegible] like access to all files on these two C[illegible] like access to all files on other Cuban[illegible] matter. There is some confusion regarding whether the Committee really wants to examine the Roselli matter or not. Chairman Inouye some time ago told George Cary the Committee would not become involved because of the FBI investigation. We will get this clarified, hopefully today, but in the interim please make tentative plans for assemblying all DDO material on these people.

Attachment: a/s

Donald F. Massey

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

IMPDET CL BY 053224

13-00000

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PFS
MAS

OLC 76-2564
10 September 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Maurice A. Sovern, O/SA/DO/O

FROM: Donald F. Massey
Assistant Legislative Counsel

SUBJECT: 9 September 1976 Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Requests

1. Yesterday I received several calls involving requests for CIA information. I need your assistance in answering these requests.

2. Mike Madigan, Minority Counsel, called regarding a proposed overseas trip of Senator Garn to CIA stations. The Senator is primarily interested in the counterintelligence field and Madigan would like us to structure an itinerary of approximately ten days around stations where Senator Garn could best learn the counterintelligence field. Before his departure, Senator Garn would want a briefing on counterintelligence, however, I suggest that a visit with George Kalaris would suffice. Because of a recent tragedy in Senator Garn's family (his wife was killed in an automobile accident), the trip is indefinite but Madigan wants to tentatively plan such a trip for October or November.

Survived copy to SSC by M. Sucker

3. Madigan is also looking into the subject of the September 7 Jack Anderson column (copy attached). He would like a copy of the 28 November 1963 cable referred to in the article for Senator Baker.

Answered 13 Sept

4. Rick Inderfurth stated that the Committee was going to pursue the John Roselli matter. In connection with their study, they would like to examine by early next week all CIA files on John Roselli, Salvador Giancana, and Santos Trafficante. The Committee has already been provided a 9 December 1970 memorandum from Howard Osborne, D/OS, to the DCI regarding Roselli. This mentions two Cubans involved with Roselli. Inderfurth would also like access to all files on these two Cubans. Finally, he would like access to all files on other Cubans involved in the Roselli matter. There is some confusion regarding whether the Committee really wants to examine the Roselli matter or not. Chairman Inouye some time ago told George Cary the Committee would not become involved because of the FBI investigation. We will get this clarified, hopefully today, but in the interim please make tentative plans for assembling all DDO material on these people.

Attachment: a/s

Donald F. Massey

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

E-2 IMPDET CL BY 053294

13-00000

7/12/94

OK's w/o redaction

by DO (Ellis/Town)

Standing alone - OK

w/itinerary - problem

13-00000

~~TOP SECRET SENSITIVE~~

29 September 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 29 September 1976

The DCI was at the White House; the DDCI chaired the meeting.

13-00000

Alluding to the upcoming Congressional investigation of the Kennedy assassination, the DDCI advised that, as in the past, there will be a need to refresh the memories of former and current employees and advised that OLC has been given the responsibility for doing same and will work with OGC as appropriate.

13-00000

5 October 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 5 October 1976

In response to Wells' inquiry re the Dade County problem, the DDCI briefed on a call last week from Senator Hart asking that we expedite decisions with regard to what material may be released to the Sheriff's office in connection with the Roselli case. He observed that after the necessary work is accomplished, he will review the options with Senator Hart. A brief discussion followed, and the DCI noted we should avoid the precedent of providing such materials to local authorities.

13-00000

8 October 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 8 October 1976

13-00000

Cary called attention to the article in today's Post (attached) concerning the House Select Committee investigation of the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King. He briefed on background provided by Chairman Downing's Administrative Assistant, advised that Downing would like to meet with the Director on 15 October, and suggested that we discuss the Committee's investigation with the White House. The DDCI noted the need to form a group similar to the Review Staff who, under the guidance of OLC, would devote full time to the Committee's inquiry. Cary stated that Pat Carpentier and Chris May will be the focal points within OLC.

Page 14

WASHINGTON POST

Full Inquiry Vowed on JFK, King

By Mary Russell
Washington Post Staff Writer

Richard Sprague, sworn in yesterday as the acting counsel and director of the House select committee investigating the assassinations of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr., promised that "no document" and "no witness" would be beyond the reach of his investigation into the murder of the two American leaders.

Sprague said the committee had given him virtually carte blanche to look into the Kennedy and King deaths.

House committee chairman Thomas Downing confirmed that the committee members would retain only the right to "veto" Sprague's actions, but would not interfere with his investigation and were giving him total control of hiring and firing staff.

Sprague, 51, built a reputation as a determined prosecutor when we served as assistant district attorney in Philadelphia from 1958 to 1974. He won convictions in more than 60 first degree murder cases, losing only one. He is best known for the conviction of United Mine Workers president W. A. (Tony) Boyle in the murder of Joseph Yablonski, a union opponent.

Sprague said yesterday he was asking immediately that a meeting be set up between himself and the heads of the Justice Department, the FBI and the CIA.

He said if the CIA or FBI attempted to withhold material, he hoped Congress would be asked to back up the committee with contempt citations and "then we could go to the courts."

Sprague emphasized that he was "entering the investigation with a completely open mind," and added, "I start assuming nothing. I start from ground zero."

He said he would attempt to find out who did the killings, what individuals were involved and whether "any individual or agency attempted to thwart" the investigations.

A Senate select intelligence committee report recently revealed that the Warren Commission was not told of attempts by the CIA to assassinate Cuban Prime Minister Fidel Castro. There have been other revelations that the FBI destroyed a note from Lee Harvey Oswald. In King's death, Frank C. Holloman, the Memphis police chief and a former FBI official, pulled off King's black security guard and transferred two firemen from a station across the street from where King was killed on the day of King's death.

Sprague said he would conduct the investigaions of the King and Kennedy deaths simultaneously. He refused to put a deadline on the investigations, saying he would have to go back to witnesses many times and it could take a "space of years."

The select committee, formed only a few weeks ago, dies at the end of the year and must be reconstituted at the beginning of the next Congress in January.

Rep. Henry Gonzelez (D-Tex) is expected to be the new committee chairman. Downing is retiring from Congress at the end of the year.

Sprague, who is now in the private practice of law, said he would be paid the top salary for a congressional staff person, about $38,000 or $39,000.

CBS, Moscow Sign Pact

MOSCOW, Oct. 7 (UPI)—CBS Inc. signed an agreement yesterday on cooperation with the Soviet State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting. The Tass news agency said the agreement provided for "exchange of television and radio materials and mutual assistance in preparing television and radio programs" on life in the Soviet Union and the United States. CBS also is competing for U.S. television rights to the 1980 Olympic games in the Soviet Union.

13-00000

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

12 October 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 12 October 1976

The Director was at the White House; DDCI chaired the meeting.

13-00000

DDCI noted that he had held a small press conference on 9 October at Washington and Jefferson College and was not completely comfortable with his answer to one of the questions concerning our view as to whether the Downing House Select Committee investigation of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King would develop any new material. He asked Falkiewicz to examine the transcript.

13-00000

29 October 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 29 October 1976

The Director and DDCI were out of the city. Blake chaired the meeting.

Noting newsman Ron Kessler's allegations that Lee Harvey Oswald met with Cuban agents eight weeks before President Kennedy's assassination, Waller said that this matter was thoroughly reviewed by the Warren Commission and Senator Schweiker's former SSC Subcommittee. Bolten noted that Kessler and other newsmen are also trying to determine if CIA proprietary organizations are involved in the current South Korean scandals.

Referring to the conversation about Ron Kessler earlier in the meeting, Berend stated that Kessler claims to have new information regarding the Kennedy assassination which he would like to discuss with the Agency. As a result of guidance he received from Scott Breckinridge this morning, Berend will advise Kessler today that (a) the allegation of Oswald's meeting with Cubans in Mexico City was reported to the Warren Commission and Congressional investigating committees and (b) that in view of the upcoming investigation by the House Select Committee on Assassinations, we deem it inappropriate to discuss the matter further with him.

13-00000

16 November 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 16 November 1976

The Director was out of the city. The DDCI chaired the meeting.

13-00000

Waller advised that Richard Sprague, Acting Director of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, will be here today to undertake a walk-through of file holdings which have been set aside as relevant to the Committee's inquiry.

Waller noted that the report of Oswald telling Cuban officials of his intent to kill President Kennedy alluded to in the article in today's Washington Post (attached) was from CIA to the FBI dated 1964 and was proven spurious at the time.

13-00000

WASHINGTON POST

House Probers Will Seek FBI Oswald Memo

Associated Press

The chairman of a House committee investigating assassinations said yesterday he will subpoena an FBI memo indicating that Lee Harvey Oswald told Cuban officials he planned to kill President Kennedy.

Rep. homas N. Downing (D-Va.) said he is aware of the memo only through news reports. The Washington Post reported Saturday that the 1964 memo had been discovered recently by the Justice Department.

But he said "I feel sure it was" a request from his committee, established to probe the assassinations of Kennedy and civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., that led to discovery of the memo.

His comment, made at a meeting of the panel, appeared to conflict with statements made to the Associated Press by an informed source who said the memo had been provided to a Senate intelligence subcommittee earlier this year.

The source said the memo was written in 1964 by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, who quoted a bureau informant as saying Oswald told Cuban officials he planned to kill Kennedy. According to the source, the informant said his information came directly from Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

The informant said the information was based on a report Castro had received from officials of the Cuban embassy in Mexico City, the source said. Oswald visited the embassy on Sept. 27, 1963, about two months before Kennedy's assassination in Dallas.

The source said he had read the memo, but discounted its significance since Castro had made a similar statement publicly in August, 1967, in an interview with a British journalist.

In its second official meeting, the committee held a brief public session and confirmed Richard A. Sprague, a former government prosecutor, as chief counsel. Sprague said he intends to hire 160 to 170 investigators.

The panel also agreed to form two subcommittees to probe the Kennedy and King slayings simultaneously. Rep. Samuel L. Devine of Ohio, ranking Republican on the committee, questioned the action, saying it would require excessive staff.

13-00000

17 November 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 17 November 1976

13-00000

Bolten called attention to continuing press coverage of the investigation into President Kennedy's assassination (see attached Washington Post article) and expressed his concern over David Belin's statements which seem to imply that Belin believes documents have been destroyed and that there was a cover-up by CIA and FBI. Stating that he believed Bolten misinterpreted Belin's comments, the DDCI added that Belin has always held the view that the passage of time would make it too difficult to assemble the facts. At the Director's request, the DDCI will call Belin to learn first-hand what he told press representatives. The Director asked if we know the accuracy of press allegations that FBI files contain a 1964 memo written by FBI Director Hoover which indicates that Lee Harvey Oswald told Cuban officials he planned to kill President Kennedy. After a brief discussion, the Director asked that Lapham ask the Justice Department if such a memorandum exists.

13-00000

Page A6

WASHINGTON POST

Hill Investigator Told King Documents Were Destroyed

Associated Press

A lawyer for the House committee probing the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said yesterday that documents relating to the case have been destroyed since the investigation began.

Chief counsel Richard A. Sprague said he had not been officially notified of the destruction but said he had learned of it "from an individual who has interviewed other people."

Sprague said the documents "would have been in possession of law enforcement authorities" and were "relevant to our investigation."

"I have been advised that the destruction has [taken place] since it was announced [in September] that this committee would be investigating" the murders of King and President Kennedy, he said.

Sprague would not say which law enforcement agency had the documents. However, committee member Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex.) said he believed they had been in the possession of authorities in Tennessee, where King was killed in 1968.

The Memphis Police Department has denied that any documents relating to the King case have been destroyed. Lt. William Schultz said that all of the King files were turned over to the state attorney general in Memphis.

There have been published allegations that some of the documents were burned in September when the department destroyed records of its intelligence division. These records were burned as the department faced lawsuits filed by individuals on whom the department had allegedly conducted surveillance during the 1960s.

Sprague was asked through a spokesman if the documents he was referring to were the same as those mentioned in the published allegations. He replied "no comment," but added that his information did not come from news reports.

At the unexpected public session of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, Gonzalez asked staff attorney Robert Ozer if he had any reason to believe that documents relating to the King case had been destroyed "since the constitution of this committee."

"Yes, sir," Ozer replied. "I believe there are some documents that have been destroyed."

James Earl Ray pleaded guilty to the King slaying and is in prison. In recent years he has made efforts to obtain a new trial, claiming his guilty plea was coerced.

Yesterday's hearing, expected to be held in secret, was opened to the public after a motion to go into executive session failed on a 6-to-6 vote. Rep. Christopher J. Dodd (D-Conn.) led the argument to open the hearing, saying, "An important mission I think we have is to conduct a public open forum" into the two murders, which have been "gnawing at the conscience of the public."

Problems in Reopening Kennedy Inquiry Cited

DES MOINES, Nov. 16 (UPI)—A veteran government investigator says problems in obtaining credible evidence and the possible destruction of key documents could limit the success of a new probe into the assassination of President Kennedy.

David Belin, a Des Moines attorney who served on the staff of the Warren Commission investigating Kennedy's death and later directed a blue ribbon panel's investigation of domestic abuses by the Central Intelligence Agency, said the House Select Committee on Assassinations, which met for the first time Monday, faces insurmountable problems in reopening the investigation of the Kennedy assassination.

Intelligence sources have warned that the committee may find certain documents missing from the CIA or FBI files and have suggested that the probe be broadened to include a possible cover-up by the two agencies and by U.S. intelligence officers in the years following the November, 1963, assassination.

"It's going to be very difficult to put things together 13 years after the fact," Belin said. "I think it's imperative that the FBI and CIA grant complete access to their files, but I think there will be problems obtaining the evidence.

"I would have great concern about the destruction of any documents."

Belin called for a reopening of the assassination probe earlier this year, predicting that a congressional investigation would support the Warren Commission's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald killed Kennedy.

However, he said the "Cuban connection," Oswald's possible involvement with Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, had not been explored.

Belin said documents recently released to him by the CIA under a Freedom of Information Act request "could be interpreted as supporting the reports of a possible relationship between Oswald and the Cuban government."

13-00000

18 November 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 18 November 1976

The DCI was out of the city. DDCI chaired the meeting.

13-00000

In response to the DDCI's inquiry, Lapham advised he is checking as to whether any of our employees have received subpoenas from the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

In response to the DDCI's inquiry, Lapham advised that we have not yet heard from Justice on the existence of a 5 June 1964 memorandum containing information that Oswald told Cuban officials he planned to kill President Kennedy (see Morning Meeting Minutes of 17 November).

WASHINGTON POST

House Unit Opens Probe of Slayings Of JFK, Dr. King

By Richard L. Lyons
Washington Post Staff Writer

The House Select Committee on Assassinations has begun what may be the biggest and most expensive of congressional investigations as it seeks final answers to the murders of John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The committee yesterday issued about 10 subpoenas seeking information from various agencies on the shooting deaths of President Kennedy in Dallas in 1963 and of Dr. King in Memphis in 1968. The committee, created by the House in September, is seeking answers to lingering questions as to whether Lee Harvey Oswald alone killed Kennedy and whether James Earl Ray alone killed King or whether the accused assassins were part of larger conspiracies.

The committee staff would not say specifically what the first subpoenas sought. But they reportedly were sent to law enforcement agencies that had expressed willingness to turn over the materials but wanted them submitted under subpoena.

The committee will have only begun its work when it expires with the end of the 94th Congress on Jan. 3. But it is expected to be speedily reconstituted and to continue its work on a greatly expanded scale.

The probe could last the full two-year life of the 95th Congress. Now that the House has decided the investigation is needed, it would be politically difficult to cut it short because that would leave the committee open to charges of cover-up.

The committee is now operating on a budget of $150,000 and has assembled a staff of about 25 with headquarters in three rooms of an old FBI building back of the HEW headquarters which the House has taken over as an annex.

Chief Counsel Richard A. Sprague is working up a budget proposal that calls for a staff of 170 persons next year. Such a staff could run the cost up to $3 million or $4 million if the investigation lasts more than a year.

The biggest recent congressional investigations were the Senate Watergate investigation in 1973-74 and the House Judiciary Committee's inquiry that recommended impeachment of President Nixon in 1974. The Senate investigation cost about $2 million over 19 months and had a professional staff of 23 with backup personnel. The impeachment inquiry cost nearly $1.5 million and had a staff of just over 100 at the peak.

The proposed cost of the assassination inquiry has raised some eyebrows at the Capitol. But Chief Counsel Sprague, a tough Pennsylvania prosecutor who won a murder conviction against ousted United Mine Workers President W.A. (Tony) Boyle in the killing of UMW rebel Joseph Yablonski, tells members that if they are going to make an investigation they should do it right—to end the doubts, not conduct a halfway investigation that leaves them hanging.

To Sprague the job is a criminal investigation of two homicides, from scratch. By contrast, the impeachment inquiry did no investigating of its own. It assembled and evaluated information collected by others—much of it on Nixon's tapes.

At a meeting this week, the assassination committee, on Sprague's recommendation, created two subcommittees to conduct concurrent investigations of the two deaths. One, headed by Rep. Richardson Preyer (D-N.C.), will look into the death of Kennedy. The other, headed by Delegate Walter E. Fauntroy (D-D.C.), will investigate the death of Dr. King, with whom he worked in the 1960s.

The proposed budget would assign to each of these subcommittees 15 attorneys, 25 investigators and 40 backup personnel.

Ever since the two leaders were killed, there have been doubts that Oswald, who was killed before he was brought to trial, and Ray, who pleaded guilty and never went to trial, acted alone. Congressional leaders had resisted pleas for further inquiries.

But this year the House went ahead because of new information, such as revelations about efforts by the CIA to assassinate Cuban leader Fidel Castro before Kennedy's assassination, and the request by black members of Congress for a joint inquiry into the two deaths.

Rep. Thomas N. Downing (D-Va.), as chief sponsor of the resolution creating the committee, was named chairman. But he will retire from Congress at the end of the year. If tradition is followed, Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez (D-Tex.), committee vice chairman and longtime sponsor of a similar resolution, will become chairman in January.

13-00000

19 November 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 19 November 1976

The Director and DDCI were en route to Plains to brief President-elect Carter. Wells chaired the meeting.

Mulholland reported that the Cuban weekly Bohemia yesterday carried a story that the Agency was involved in 21 plots to kill Castro. He stated that the story was probably to counter U.S. press reports that Castro was involved in President Kennedy's assassination and also might be in preparation for Castro's planned series of press conferences, which are now scheduled to be held sometime in December.

13-00000

26 November 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 26 November 1976

Waller critiqued the item in today's Washington Post by Ronald Kessler, "CIA Withheld Details on Oswald Call," related that David Phillips advised this morning that statements attributed to him are misleading, and closed by noting that the one fact we allegedly withheld concerned only Oswald's request for a free trip to the Soviet Union. A brief discussion followed on the possible source of Kessler's material, and later in the meeting, the undersigned recalled that a few years ago the IG and LA Division were concerned over a manuscript done by deceased former COS/Mexico Win Scott and then in the hands of his widow. The DDCI noted that we will examine our records on this.

13-00000

Cary noted his understanding that the visit here by Richard Sprague of the House Select Committee on Assassinations went well.

13-00000

WASHINGTON POST

By Ronald Kessler
Washington Post Staff Writer

In late November, 1963—eight weeks before the assassination of President Kennedy—Lee Harvey Oswald telephoned the Soviet embassy in Mexico City and tried to make a deal.

In exchange for unspecified information, he wanted a free trip to Russia.

This conversation was intercepted and recorded by the Central Intelligence Agency at the time. But it was not then turned over to the FBI, which has responsibility for investigating possible spies, and it was not later turned over to the Warren Commission during its investigation of the assassination.

The unanswered question is why not?

The existence of the CIA telephone intercept of Oswald's conversation in Mexico City and the contents of the subsecret transcript have been verified by The Washington Post. The Post has also verified that the CIA failed to turn over the complete transcript to either the FBI or the Warren Commission.

Instead, the CIA gave the FBI in October, 1963, only a brief report saying Oswald had made contact with the Russians. It gave the Warren Commission a transcript of the taped conversation but for unexplained reasons failed to include in the transcript Oswald's offer of information and his suggestion that the Russians would want to pay his way to the Soviet Union.

The Post has also determined that the CIA, for unexplained reasons, told the Warren Commission that it learned of most of Oswald's activities in Mexico City only after the assassination. The fact is, however, that the CIA monitored and tape-recorded his conversation with both the Russian and Cuban embassies in Mexico City in the fall of 1963, before Kennedy's death.

It was the CIA's belief that the two embassies were heavily involved in the spy business and that, specifically, they were operational bases for intelligence activities directed at the United States.

So, with the full cooperation of the Mexican government, CIA [illegible] both the Cuban and Russian embassies.

The CIA was especially interested in U.S. citizens who made contact with the embassies.

Thus, when Oswald showed up in Mexico City in late September and telephoned the Russian embassy, his conversation was picked up from the wiretap. A transcript was made and circulated in the CIA offices in the American embassy in Mexico City.

The station chief at that time was the late Winston M. Scott, who personally reviewed all transcripts emanating from wiretaps on Soviet and Cuban installations.

The Oswald transcript, according to a CIA translator who worked with Scott, aroused a lot of interest.

"They usually picked up the transcripts the next day," he said. "This they wanted right away."

What that transcript contained is a matter of some dispute, and the CIA says it routinely destroyed the tape before the assassination. But some people who saw the transcript or heard the tape before the assassination recall that Oswald was trying to make a deal.

One of them is David A. Phillips, a former CIA officer, who now heads the Association of Retired Intelligence Officers and is a leading defender of CIA activities. Phillips was stationed in Mexico City at the time.

The transcript revealed, Phillips recalled, that Oswald told the Soviet embassy: "I have information you would be interested in, and I know you can pay my way" to Russia.

The stenographer who typed up the transcript and the translator who prepared it had similar recollections.

"He said he had some information to tell them," the typist said in an interview in Mexico. "His main concern was getting to one of the two countries [Russia or Cuba] and he wanted them to pay for it. He said he had to meet them."

The Warren Commission later concluded the Russians and Cubans were not much impressed by Oswald. This view is supported by Sylvia Duran, a Mexican citizen who worked in the Cuban embassy at the time of Oswald's visit. She talked to Oswald on Sept. 27, 1963, and recalls the meeting in some detail.

In a joint interview in Mexico City with this reporter and Post special correspondent Marlise Simons, Duran said Oswald told her that he wanted to travel to Cuba and Russia and displayed documents to show he was a "friend" of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee, among other things, he claimed to be a member of the American Communist Party.

Duran said she informed Oswald that in order to travel to Russia he would have to obtain permission from the Soviets. Oswald went off and returned later in the day to inform Duran that he had obtained the necessary permission. Duran said she called the Soviet embassy and was told Oswald's application for a visa would take three to four months to process. Informed of this, Duran said, Oswald "got really angry and red. He was gesticulating." Duran said she had to call for help from the Cuban consul who got into a shouting match with Oswald and told him to get out. Duran said she never saw him again.

However, Duran's story covered only the first day of Oswald's five-day stay in Mexico City. Oswald later referred in a letter to "meetings" he had in the Soviet Embassy.

How interested the CIA was in Oswald's dealings with the two embassies is uncertain.

The translator and typist who handled the transcript of the intercepted conversation recalled that the level of interest was high. But the CIA's own actions lead to a different conclusion.

The agency waited until Oct. 10, 1963, to notify the FBI of Oswald's activities. And its teletyped report made no mention of Oswald's offer of information in exchange for a free trip to Russia or of his attempts to travel to Cuba and Russia. "On October 1, 1963," the teletype message said, "a reliable and sensitive source in Mexico reported that an American male, who identified himself as Lee Oswald, contacted the Soviet Embassy in Mexico City inquiring whether the embassy had received any news concerning a telegram which had been sent to Washington."

That was strictly a routine handling of the matter, and similar to the standard reports made to the FBI at that time on other contacts with the communists by American citizens in Mexico.

13-00000

WASHINGTON POST

CIA Held Details on Oswald Call

Even after Kennedy's assassination, the CIA failed to turn over to the Warren Commission the full transcript of the telephone intercept it had made in Mexico City. Oswald's offer of information to the Russians in exchange for passage was omitted from the transcript, and the CIA claimed it did not know of most of Oswald's activities in Mexico City until after the assassination.

The significance of the CIA actions is difficult to assess. The FBI in the fall of 1963 was already showing intermittent interest in Oswald and might or might not have intensified that interest if it had been told of Oswald's conversations.

Whether the new information would have affected the Warren Commission's deliberations is also an open question. The commission investigated the possibility of a foreign conspiracy and concluded there was no evidence to show Oswald acted on behalf of a foreign power.

Nevertheless, there is yet no explanation for the CIA's handling of Oswald's conversations. The CIA today refuses to comment, saying it would not be appropriate in the light of an impending investigation by the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

When asked if they could explain the agency's actions, some CIA officers stationed at the time in Mexico City said the CIA may have had a relationship with Oswald that it sought to conceal. The CIA has denied this.

David W. Belin, who was an assistant counsel to the Warren Commission and later executive director of the Rockefeller commission's probe of the CIA, said that if the Warren Commission had known of Oswald's conversations and other new information, it would have been less sure that the assassination was not part of a foreign conspiracy.

Sen. Richard S. Schweiker (R-Pa.), who led the Senate intelligence committee's probe of the assassination, said that investigation would have taken on an "entirely different direction and perspective" if the committee had been aware of Oswald's conversations.

In interviews with The Post, Belin, who documented the CIA plots against Castro in his capacity as executive director of the Rockefeller commission, revealed the CIA also did not tell the Warren Commission of a report from an alleged witness to a meeting in Mexico City between Oswald and Cuban intelligence agents.

At the time, Cuban agents coordinated their more important activities with agents of the KGB, the Soviet intelligence service.

Belin called on the CIA to make full disclosure of its knowledge of Oswald and his contacts with the Cubans and Russians.

Belin, a staunch defender of the Warren Commission's conclusion that Oswald was the lone assassin who killed Kennedy, said he recognizes the CIA's concern about disclosing secret sources and intelligence techniques. But he said a greater national interest would be served by disclosing the truth.

A CIA spokesman specifically denied that the agency has a report of a meeting between Oswald and Cuban agents. "The agency is aware of only one such specific allegation, and that was debunked," the spokesman said.

13-00000

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE

30 November 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 30 November 1976

The Director was out of the city. The DDCI chaired the meeting.

13-00000

Cary highlighted his session yesterday with House Assassination Committee Staffer Sprague and noted work under way to expedite necessary clearances for Sprague and staff. The DDCI urged that the Inspector General and General Counsel to hasten their review of material that can be released on the Kennedy assassination under FOIA. The DDCI concurred in Bolten's suggestion that the Inspector General's critique of the 26 November Washington Post Kessler article be declassified and provided to Sprague as soon as possible.

13-00000

~~TOP SECRET SENSITIVE~~

1 December 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 1 December 1976

The Director was at the White House. The DDCI chaired the meeting.

13-00000

In response to Cary's advice that he will meet with Richard Sprague this morning to provide Agency information relating to the Kennedy assassination, the DDCI stated that yesterday he provisionally cleared Sprague in order that we might move ahead rapidly in granting Sprague access to classified documents on the matter. Cary noted that Justice has agreed to use DCID 1/14 clearance requirements and is anxious to proceed with clearances for the HSC members and staffers. He added that he will leave with Sprague a draft of the secrecy agreement that we worked out with the SSCI.

13-00000

~~TOP SECRET SENSITIVE~~

2 December 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 2 December 1976

The DCI was attending an NSC meeting. The DDCI chaired the meeting.

13-00000

*Cary briefed in considerable detail on his 4-hour session yesterday with the Acting Director of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, Richard Sprague, who tabled a number of questions that we will be responding to. The DDCI cautioned against our assuming responsibility for tracking down the identity or whereabouts of individuals. In response to his inquiry, Blake noted work under way to expedite clearances and obtain appropriate secrecy agreements. The DDCI asked that consideration be given to his or the Director's meeting with Chairman Gonzalez.

13-00000

3 December 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 3 December 1976

Cary noted that Reader's Digest wishes to talk with Walter Elder regarding Lee Harvey Oswald and Nosenko. The Director asked that Falkiewicz advise Elder not to grant the interview.

13-00000

6 December 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting of 6 December 1976

Cary noted that he talked with Richard Sprague last Friday about the DDCI's suggestion that the DCI and/or the DDCI meet with Representatives Downing and Gonzales, current and future HSC Chairmen (see Morning Meeting Minutes of 2 December). In response to the DDCI's explanation that the meeting would be to discuss security arrangements with the Committee, the DCI agreed to meet with Downing and Gonzales but suggested meeting also with Representative Preyer, the senior Democrat handling the investigation of President Kennedy's assassination.

13-00000

8 December 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Morning Meeting Minutes of 8 December 1976

13-00000

Cary advised that he will be meeting with the Acting Director of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, Richard Sprague, today and added that Sprague has suggested that Chairman Downing and Sam Devine be present when they meet with the DCI.